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FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 137, August 3

Colonel Castillo Armas made brief address to crowd before National Palace at 12:35 today and told it neither he nor others on Junta had lost control of government. He began by telling them they should not be misled by false rumors circulated among public by enemy. He said they could be sure all measures ordered by government were approved in perfect freedom by him and that no force was compelling him to act in interest other than those of Guatemalan people. He said scope of problems and difficulties encountered had not permitted action in form which they and he would desire but phase had arrived in which he was sure to overcome circumstances which had prevented development dynamic government. Castillo then told crowd it was committing injustice in thinking there had been bad intention against him or against government by any other members Junta and it could be sure of loyalty and friendship of Colonel Monzon for him. At this point, crowd booed Monzon. Castillo then repeated his endorsement, saying Monzon had at all times worked with him with loyalty and sincerity. After praising Major Oliva, he asked "have faith and absolute certainty that what we are doing is best that can be done in such difficult times". He referred to "incident" of yesterday and said it was taken advantage of by enemies of people but asked people to remain calm and analyze reality on situation directly and not to precipitate or aggravate events.

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